DINO BELTRAMI Interview
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Sacramento Ethnic Communities Survey Project
January 12, 1984

Time	Topic
0:00	Introduction
0:45	Personal biographical details. Born September 10, 1916 in Modesto, CA. Family moved to 17th and X Streets in Sacramento. Later move to 10th and W.
1:35	Regional mini-settlements of mostly northern Italians. His family maintained social contacts with Toscani, Piemontesi and Genovesi.
2:38	Description of his wedding day at St. Mary's Church at 7th and T Streets.
3:00	Italian language services at St. Mary's during the 1920s and 1930s. He spoke Italian as a child. His mother was Genovese and his father was Lombardese.
4:21	His father worked in the garbage business in Sacramento. There were about forty-two working partners who ran the city's garbage service. They had an exclusive hold on the city's garbage service. They were mostly Genovesi and Piemontesi.
6:00	Italians had controlled the city garbage franchise from much earlier than 1917.
7:30	Dino's father migrated around in the U.S. He came out to California through encouragement of friends already here.
8:30	His father worked at the Black Oak and Melones Mines near Sonora, CA., ca. 1905 as a laborer.
9:20	Italianness of Southside neighborhood, Oak Park and Alkalai Flat (Sicilian) described.
10:22	He doesn't remember any inter-regional group friction.
10:29	Description of Roma Bakery on 3rd Street between K and L.
11:18	Italian women often had brick ovens in their backyards where they made bread for their families.

12:00 Italian foods eaten at home. Description of other Italian festivities: Singing at the Italian picnics at Southside Park during the 1930s and Elk Grove Park after the war.

13:18 The family moved to Broderick about 1920. Din's father got into the Hotel business there. His first was the Washington Hotel on Front and E Streets. There were rooms, a saloon and a dining room.

14:15 Dino's mother did the cooking and cleaning (with some hired help for the cleaning). The family lived there in separate quarters.

15:15 A lot of single Italian men stayed there.

15:50 Hotel d'Italia and Italian workers who lived there.

16:28 Hotel had a lot of family-style trust among the owners and tenants.

17:07 The men talked to each other about where jobs could be found.

17:36 "Dagotown" was a common term for the northwestern part of Broderick: B, C between 3rd, 4th, and 5th Streets. Such names as Pierucci, Luigi, Guastalli, Ghelfi, Burgongone, Battaglia. Probably between thirty and fifty families of Italians lived there. Seems that a series of chain migrations brought Italians from the same areas of Italy to Broderick.

20:30 A lot of Italians went back to Italy for wives.

20:50 A lot worked for the Southern Pacific as machinists and laborers in the shops.

21:30 It was common for men to walk to and from work across the "Eye" Street Bridge.

21:53 He remembers Italian spoken on the streets in Broderick. Most spoke the Tuscan dialect or standard Italian.

22:35 He did not then, nor now, consider the term "dago" offensive. He doesn't recall Italian people getting angry about the offensive word.

23:37 The family business moved to the Weed Hotel in Broderick at 2nd and E about 1921-2. People came to know the place as "Beltrami's."

24:28 Description of people getting to Beltrami's. A lot of people walked, others drove cars. A few rode horses.

26:00 The Sacramento Navigation Company Shipyard was between E and F on Second Street (to the river) and had been there since probably the 1880s.

27:00 A number of the men who worked at this boatyard on the river lived at Baltrami's.

28:07 Description of Beltrami's. The building is still there and is about one hundred years old.

29:02 Women and children were not allowed in the bar. Women had a separate, small room to sit at a table and ring a buzzer for drinks. Women would not often come there but often drank beer when they did.

30:00 END Side A

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1:07 Further description of the bar and the dining room. In those days the bar was called a "saloon", not a "bar."

2:29 The smells of homecooking were often present.

3:20 The clientele was Italian and American. Many Italians came there.

3:51 Food served in the dining room: Always soup, chicken or other roasted meats. spaghetti. Sometimes on Sundays there would be an antipasto tray, polenta, bacalá, gnocchi and pesto.

5:26 Dino's mother and father raised their own gardens. Virtually all of the Italians he knew had their own garden.

6:30 The Hotel d'Italia and Del Monte Hotel would attract visiting Italians.

6:58 Beltrami's had a bocce court in the backyard. The men would play and drink homemade wine. Gambling was just for drinks.

8:11 Virtually all of the Italian families made their own red wine.

8:57 He remembers hearing stories about work up in the Sierras from the Italian workers staying at his parent's boarding house.

9:30 "Bootlegging" was widespread among Italians in Broderick. Americans knew Italians drunk wine and went to them when Prohibition began. They knew the Italians would have a ready supply of "homemade" wine.

11:30 Wine was mostly produced in Broderick during Prohibition. He estimates about 90% of Italian men in Broderick at the time were bootlegging.

13:00 Broderick was more open and easier to operate in than Sacramento.

14:26 People did not feel it was immoral to buy and sell liquor.

14:44 He thinks being arrested for bootlegging was no particular deterrent or disgrace.

15:26 Men were usually fined and Dino does not think it deterred them.

16:00 Drunkenness was uncommon.

16:30 Description of "canned heat bums" along the river.

17:30 When Sacramento Police gave "bums" a "floater" out of town they would come over to Broderick in Yolo County.

18:40 Police would occasionally crackdown on bootlegging if there were problems with violence; Sometimes crackdowns just to let people know they were there.

19:40 Description of typical "speakeasy" in Sacramento.

20:45 Bootleggers kept a separate private room or space in the house to hide the "booze."

22:46 Italian winemaking continued after the repeal of Prohibition and selling probably continued.

24:00 Prostitution was present in Sacramento on J Street along 3rd through 7th in some of the hotels there.

25:05 The Hoffman Saloon between 2nd and 3rd on D Street in Broderick served Gilt Edge, Buffalo and Ruhstaller's beer. It was originally run by non-Italians but he recalls it being run by Italians during the 1920s.

26:30 The Hoffman Saloon had rooms for boarders. It wasn't an Italian boarding house.

27:15 The Hoffman Saloon burned down about 1940.

27:55 Other Italian business in Broderick of note was Mrs. Perez's Italian Deli on 4th and B Streets during 1927-8. All the Italians went there. The Ghelfi family ran the Italian Deli before Mrs. Perez and had had a delivery service.

29:20 He remembers Italian vegetable peddlers and many Japanese truck gardeners. Italian truck gardeners in Bryte had names such as Albericci and Garibaldi.

30:00 He sums up the pleasantness of growing up in Broderick during the 1920s and 1930s.

31:11 END OF INTERVIEW